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XXV.—*On a new South American Jay of the Genus Cyanolyca.* By W. L. SCLATER, M.B.O.U.

(Plate VIII.)

WHILE rearranging and cataloguing the collection of Corvidæ in the Natural History Museum I came across this hitherto uncharacterized form of South American Jay, which I propose to name and describe as follows :—

Cyanolyca viridicyanea cuzcoensis, subsp. nov.

(Plate VIII. fig. 1.)

Resembling *C. v. viridicyanea*, but with the chin and throat a rich ultramarine blue instead of black, faintly washed with greenish indigo; general colour above and below bright blue with hardly any trace of the greenish shade characteristic of the typical form; as regards the white on the head, the black frontal band, the black on the sides of the face, and the narrow line of white and black separating the ultramarine blue or blackish indigo of the throat from the brighter azure blue of the rest of the underparts, it agrees with the typical form.

In dimensions the two forms are almost identical, the wing-measurements of four examples of *C. v. cuzcoensis* averaging 135 mm., of five *C. v. viridicyanea* averaging 139 mm.

The type is an example collected by Mr. H. Whitely, junr., at Huasampilla, at an elevation of about 10,000 feet, north-east of Cuzco, on the eastern slopes of the Andes, in July 1871, and was formerly in the collection of Dr. P. L. Selater (B.M. reg. no. 86/9/15/399).

The measurements are as follows :—Wing 134, tail 150, tarsus 37, culmen 25 mm.

There are three other examples of the subspecies, all taken by Whitely at the same locality between October 1870 and March 1872, now in the Museum collection. None of the examples are sexed by the collector, but probably there is no marked difference in this respect. They were referred to *C. viridicyanea* by Messrs. P. L. Selater and Salvin (P. Z. S. 1873, p. 185).

The type of *C. v. viridicyanea* was obtained by d'Orbigny, the French traveller, also on the eastern slopes of the Cordillera, but some 500 miles farther south, to the east of La Paz in Bolivia. It is figured by d'Orbigny (Voy. Am. Mérid., Ois. 1844, pl. 53, fig. 1), and is represented in the British Museum collection by examples obtained by the late Charles Buckley and P. O. Simons in the same district to the east of La Paz.

The Plate illustrates the two subspecies, the typical form being figured in the background.

XXVI.—Notes on the Ornithology of Malta.

By G. DESPOTT, M.B.O.U.

[Concluded from p. 349.]

117. (148) *Micropus melba melba* (L.). The Alpine Swift.
Local name: *Rundun ta zakku bajda*.

Both Schembri and Wright say that this species is not as common as its congener the Common Swift, and that it arrives here in April and September, but does not remain long in these islands. According to my own observations I can say that the species is rare, though occasionally it has



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1. *CYANOLYCA VIRIDICYANEA CUZCOENSIS*.
2. *CYANOLYCA V. VIRIDICYANEA*.